

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00810 01 OF 03 131112Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-01
NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /084 W
-----131245Z 052677 /12

P R 121400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7292
INFO CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 0810

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, MR
SUBJECT: PARM: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT - PART I

REF: (A) STATE 38356, (B) STATE 47671, (C) CERP 0001

FOLLOWING IS CHIEF OF MISSIONBRS ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF U.S.
POLICY TOWARD ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA:
A. U.S. INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA:

(1) ACCESS TO MAURITANIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES: MAURITANIA
CURRENTLY EXPORTS SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF HIGH-GRADE IRON
ORE PLUS SMALL AMOUNTZ OF COPPER AND GYPSUM. THERE ARE
REASONABLE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EXPORT QUANTITIES OF
URANIUM AN NICKEL/ AND CONTINUING HOPES FOR OFF-SHORE OIL.
MAURITANIA'S COASTAL WATERS, EXTENDING NOW FROM SENEGAL TO
MOROCCO (I.E. FROM 16TH TO 18TH PARALLEL), ARE ADJUDGED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00810 01 OF 03 131112Z

RICHEST FISHING GROUND ON WEST COAST OF AFRICA. (S/P TRENDS,
PARA 12)

(2) SECURING POLITICAL COOPERATION OF MAURITANIAN
GOVERNMENT (GIRM): MAURITANIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN GROUP OF
77, NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, O.A.U., ARAB LEAGUE, INTERNA-
TIONAL MONETARY COMMUNITY AND U.N. SYSTEM MAKES GIRM UN-

PARALLELED CHANNEL FOR US INTO THIRD WORLD COUNCILS. MOREOVER, IN PAST FEW YEARS GIRM HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY READY TO ARTICULATE AND ADVOCATE ITS VIEWS IN THESE FORUMS. U.S. POLITICAL POSITION IN MAURITANIA IS CURRENTLY GOOD. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO EXPLOIT THIS POSITION TO OUR BROADER ADVANTAGE. AS RESULT OF OUR 1976 EFFORTS, GIRM OPPOSED NAM MAJORITY ON PUERTO RICO AND KOREA AND ABSTAINED (OR ABSENTED ITSELF) ON KEY UNGA VOTES. (S/P TRENDS, PARA 10 C, D)

(3) ACCESS TO GROWING MAURITANIAN MARKET: AT PRESENT US BUSINESS INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA ARE MODEST; AMERICAN FIRMS ARE CONSTRUCTING SUGAR REFINERY AND MAINTAINING AIRCRAFT OF NATIONAL AIRLINE. BUT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN (CONSULTING ENGINEERS, CONTRACTORS, BANKERS) ARE VISITING MAURITANIA IN INCREASING NUMBERS TO TAP THIS EXPANDING MARKET FOR US GOODS AND EXPERTISE (TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL), RECOGNIZING THAT FLOW OF PETRODOLLARS FROM GIRM'S EASTERN ARAB FRIENDS HAS TRANSFORMED MAURITANIA INTO SERIOUS AND ATTRACTIVE CUSTOMER.

(4) ENCOURAGING/ASSISTING MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT: FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, US PROVIDED DOLLARS 14 MILLION FOOD AID TO ALLEVIATE IMPACT OF SAHEL DROUGHT, AND HAS RESPONDED TO RENEWED REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY FOOD AID. IN BUDGET AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN/POLITICAL/ECONOMIC TERMS, IT IS IN US INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST MAURITANIA TO DEVELOP ITS AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND TO REALIZE GOAL OF AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY. (AF FORECONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00810 01 OF 03 131112Z

CAST, PARA 11)

(5) ACCESS TO MAURITANIAN PORTS: NOUADHIBOU AND DAKHLA ARE ONLY NATURAL HARBORS BETWEEN AGADIR AND DAKAR; WHILE PORT OF NOUAKCHOTT IS CURRENTLY ONLY SIMPLE JETTY, MAURITANIANS ARE DETERMINED TO TRANSFORM IT INTO DEEPWATER FACILITY. US MARITIME FORCES ARE CURRENTLY ABLE TO UTILIZE ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF WEST COAST AFRICAN PORTS; PRESERVATION OF US ACCESS TO MAURITANIAN PORTS IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT. (AF FORECAST, PARA 7)

B. OVERVIEW--ENVIRONMENT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR US POLICY:

WL MAURITANIA IS NONALIGNED STATE WHOSE GENERALLY "PROGRESSIVE" AND SOMETIMES RADICAL THIRD WORLD FOREIGN POLICY HAS FREQUENTLY IN PAST CONFLICTED WITH US FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS AND OBJECTIVES: VIETNAM, ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT--RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, KOREA, US ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA, DECOLONIALIZATION AROUND WORLD,

PACE OF CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. (US HAS NO SERIOUS BILATERAL DIFFERENCES WITH MAURITANIA.) BUT PRESSURE OF RECENT EVENTS (SAHARA GUERRILLA WAR, SOVIET/CUBAN/MPLA VICTORY IN ANGOLA, SAHEL DROUGHT) HAS SENT GIRM SEARCHING FOR NEW POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT. GROWING RECOGNITION OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OF CENTRALITY OF US TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES TO ANY LARGE-SCALE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT COUPLED WITH OUR NEW MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY DIALOGUE APPEAR TO HAVE CONVINCED TOP-MOST LEVELS OF GIRM THAT MAURITANIA MUST CHANGE ITS TACTICS IF NOT IS "PROGRESSIVE" OBJECTIVES IN ORDER TO OBUUQIYN US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT IT NOW PERCEIVES TO BE VITAL. HENCE GIRM DECISION TO ACCOMMODATE US ON THIRD WORLD ISSUES OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO U.S. BUT MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ALREADY MADE IT EXPLICITLY CLEAR THAT GIRM EXPECTS US UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF MAURITANIAN INTERESTS AND OB-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 00810 01 OF 03 131112Z

JECTIVES IN RETURN. AT MOMENT, SCALE IS IN BALANCE. BUT WHEN LAUNCHING NEXT ROUND OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, US POLICY-MAKERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT IF GIRM AGAIN RESPONDS POSITIVELY TO OUR BLANDISHMENTS, IT IS GOING TO EXPECT TANGIBLE US POLITICAL SUPPORT ON SAHAR DISPUTE; US SUPPORT FOR A COPPER PRICE STABILIZATION ARRANGEMENT, FORTHCOMING STANCE ON OTHER NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND SUBSTANTIAL PERFORMANCE ON US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMITMENTS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF MAURITANIA AND ITS SAHEL NEIGHBROS.

(2) MAURITANIA IS A "MOST UNDEVELOPED" COUNTRY WHIC HAS JUST STARTED ALONG DEVELOPMENT PATH. ITS EVOLVING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FACES ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES OF HOSTILE LAND AND CLIMATE, MINIMAL INFRASTRUCTURE, CRITICAL LACK OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED MANPOWER, AND TO LESSER DEGREE SCARCE CAPITAL. FOR PROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL AID DONORS (INCLUDING CHINESE COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE ENCOUNTERED SAME PROBLEMS), MAURITANIA PRESENTS A DIFFICULT DEVELOPMENTAL ENVIRONMENT--PHYSICAL AND MANAGERIAL. BUT DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS, AN IMAGINATIVELY CONCEIVED, CAREFULLY DESIGNED, AND METICULOUSLY EXECUTED US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAN CONTRIBUTE IN A DIRECT AND SUBSTANTIAL WAY TO RAISING LEVEL OF WEEL-BEING OF POPULATION AND TO ENCOUNRAGING GIRM TO PUT A HIGHER PRIORITY ON DEVELOPMENT, TACKLE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN RATIONAL WAY AND ULTIMATELY COME TO GRIPS WITH HARD DECISIONS WHICH MUST UNDERPIN A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. US STRATEGY CALLS FOR INITIAL CONCENTRATION ON PROJECTS WHICH ACHIEVE MAXIMUM PAYOFF IN SHORT RUN, DEMONSTRATING IMMEDIATE SUCCESS FIRST IN LIMITED LOCATIONS THENCE IN INCREASINGLY LARGER LOCA-

TIONS; CONCURRENT JOINT APPLIED RESEARCH TO PREPARE
LARGE, MORE COMPLEX EFFORTS; AND TRAINING OF GIRM PER-
SONNEL FOR LONG HAUL. AS WE BEGIN TO HELP MAURITANIANS
REALIZE THEIR GOALS OF MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
WE MUST EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZE THAT OUR AID PROGRAM IS A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 NOUAKC 00810 01 OF 03 131112Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00810 02 OF 03 131123Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-01
NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /084 W
-----131142Z 052798 /14

P R 121400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7293
INFO CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 0810

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

NOFORN

DESTABILIZING AGENT OF CHANGE IN THIS CONSERVATIVE,
TRADITIONAL SOCIETY AS WELL AS A SOURCE OF TALENT AND
FUNDS.

(3) AT MOMENT GIRM IS PREOCCUPIED WITH SAHARA DISPUTE
ALOMST TO EXCLUSION OF EVERYTHING ELSE. CONTINUING
GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON MAURITANIA TOWNS AND MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS BY ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN-SUPPORTED POLI-
SARIO, AND POLITICAL HEAVY WEATHER MAURITANIA HAS
ENCOUNTERED IN OAU, NAM AND UN HAVE THOROUGHLY TIED

UP MILITARY AND FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKERS. US HAS MAINTAINED ITS PUBLIC POSTURE OF NEUTRAL OBSERVER ON SAHARA; BUT OUR PRIVATE STATEMENTS TO MAURITANIA'S MOROCCAN ALLY TOGETHER WITH OUR UNGA SUPPORT OF PRO-MAURITANIAN/MOROCCAN RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED BY GIRM AS US SUPPORT FOR ITS SAHARA POSITION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00810 02 OF 03 131123Z

(4) TO PRESERVE ACCESS TO MAURITANIAN MINERAL AND MARINE WEALTH WHICH US MAY NEED AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE, I BELIEVE USG AND US PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO PAY A MODEST ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUM IN FORM OF SMALL-SCALE BUT DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN SOME ASPECT OF GIRM'S EFFORT TO EXPLOIT ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. SOVIETS ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH MAURITANIANS IN DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHING (AND IN EXPANDING THEIR PRESENCE IN NOUADHIBOU VIA ESTABLISHMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AND AEROFLOT SERVICE).

(5) ALTHOUGH GIRM HAS TAKEN STEPS NEEDED TO IMPROVE POST MIFERMA NATIONALIZATION INVESTMENT CLIMATE, IMPEDIMENTS TO US INVESTMENT POSED BY INEXPERIENCED AND LETHARGIC GIRM BUREAUCRACY AND BY MINISCULE, UNINFORMED AND UNSOPHISTICATED PRIVATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY REMAIN; AND ARGUE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF US PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT VIA SALE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE/SERVICES AND OF EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN VIA DIRECT INVOLVEMENT AND INVESTMENT.

(6) UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, US DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MAURITANIA WAS GEARED TO A SEVERELY LIMITED VIEW OF US INTERESTS AND CONSEQUENTLY OF US ACTION RESPONSIBILITIES. SUPPORT STRUCTURE BOTH IN US AND IN FIELD WAS PROPORTIONATELY MODEST. EXPANSION OF US PRESENCE AND INVOLVEMENT TOGETHER WITH LAUNCHING OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORT HAVE OUTSTRIPPED YESTERYEAR'S MANAGEMENT OUTLOOK AND STRUCTURE. TIME HAS CLEARLY COME FOR COMPLETE REORIENTATION OF OUR SUPPORT CONCEPTS AND A MAJOR GESTRUCTURING OF SUPPORT MACHINERY--INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY STATE AND AID PERSONNEL RECRUITING, TRAINING AND ASSIGNMENT SYSTEMS--TO INSURE PEOPLE, SKILLS, EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT EXCITING BUT OVERWHELMING NEW PROGRAM TASKS WE HAVE SET FOR OURSELVES IN MAURITANIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00810 02 OF 03 131123Z

C. OBJECTIVES, COURSES OF ACTION, ISSUES:

(1) OBJECTIVES:

(A) PROTECT US NAHEONALS AND NVESTMENT: THERE ARE AOUT 75 AMCITS RESIDENT IN MAURITANIA. US INVESTMENT TOTALS LESS THAN HALF MILLION DOLLARS.

(B) EXPAND DIALOGUE WITH GIRM ON AFRICAN, MIDDLE EASTERN AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WITH AIM OF PERSUADING GIRM TO OUR POINT OF IVEW, AND IN HOPE THAT SENIOR GIRM OFFICIALS WILL IN TURN ARTICULATE AND SUPPORT MODERATE POSITIONS ON REGIONAL AND THIRD WORLD COUNCILS, AND EXPLAIN IF NOT ESPOUSE US VIEWS AND OBJECTIVES.

(C) EXPAND US PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT VIA SALE OF US TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE AND SERVICES TO GIRM, TO GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

(D) EXPAND EXPORT OF US PLANT, MACHINERY AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO SNIM, OTHER GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

(E) ENCOURAGE GIRM TO PUT HIGHER PRIORITY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPHASIZING ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS STATED GOAL OF FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ALLOCATION OF MORE OF ITS RESOURCES TO HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

(F) PRESERVE AND DEVELOP US ACCESS TO MAURITANIA'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

(G) PROMOTE THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION REQUIRED ON PART OF STATES IN AREA TO PERMIT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO SUCCEED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 00810 02 OF 03 131123Z

(2) COURSES OF ACTION:

(A) POLITICS: (I) COMMUNICATE AND EXPLAIN US VIEWS AND POLICIES ON KEY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO MEMBERS OF NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU, SENIOR AND WORKING-LEVEL MFA OFFICIALS, AND KEY OFFICIALS IN PRESIDENCY; (II) EXPAND DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTS OF US STATE PAPERS; (III) CONTINUE TO URGE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF SAHARA DISPUTE.

(B) ECONOMIC: (I) EXPLAIN KEY CHANGES IN US TRADE AND TARIFF POLICY; (II) POINT OUT OUT DESIRE THAT REVERSE TRADE PREFERENCES FOR EC COUNTRIES BE ELIMINATED; (III)

COMMUNICATE, EXPLAIN AND DISCUSS US POSITIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES TO MINISTER STATE FOR PLANNING, TECHNICAL MINISTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRESIDENCY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00810 03 OF 03 131136Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-01
NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 /084 W
-----131142Z 052872 /12

P R 121400Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7294
INFO CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 NOUAKCHOTT 0810

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

NOFORN

(C) COMMERCIAL: (I) ENCOURAGE US PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORT DIRECTLY AND VIA STATE AND COMMERCE, URGING PARTICIPATION IN PARTICULAR BY US CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRMS, CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AND OPERATING/MANAGEMENT/TRAINING FIRMS; (II) FACILITATE CONTINUED PURCHASES OF US MINING, OFF-HIGHWAY TRANSPORT, INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, FACILITATING AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO OBTAIN EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING FOR MAJOR SALES. (III) CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INTEREST US FISHERMEN IN IMMENSELY RICH FISHING GROUNDS OFF MAURITANIA AND URGE THEM TO ENTER ACTIVELY IN EXPLOITATION OF MAURITANIA'S MARINE WEALTH, BOTH TO SATISFY US NEEDS AND TO COUNTER SOVIET INROADS.

(D) DEVELOPMENTAL: (I) PROVIDE BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (DOLLARS 8 TO 12 MILLION ANNUALLY) FOR INTERMEDIATE-SIZE AGRICULTURE PROJECTS, FOR APPLIED AGRICUL-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00810 03 OF 03 131136Z

TURAL RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING TO LAY BASIS FOR LARGER AND MORE COMPLEX AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS LATER; FOR MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH/NUTRITIONAL PLANNING; AND FOR SELECTED, SMALL, INNOVATIVE, PILOT-MODEL PROJECTS IN HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION; ((28) PLACE SMALL NUMBER OF KEY MINISTRY PLANNING AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN US PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAMS IN PLANNING, PROJECT DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT, (III) CONTINUE SELF-HELP AT ROUGHLY PRESENT LEVEL; (IV) COMPLETE REBUILDING OF PEACE CORPS PROGRAM, INSURING ARRIVAL, INSTALLATION AND SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF FIRST NEW GROUP OF PCVS, THEREBY CONVINCING GIRM DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS THAT PEACE CORPS IS A SERIOUS, EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE DEVELOPMENT PARTNER, AND THUS LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR EXPANSION OF PC CONTRIBUTION TO SOLUTION OF MAURITANIA'S CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED MANPOWER.

(E) CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL: (I) INCREASE SLIGHTLY NUMBER OF MAURITANIANS SENT TO US IN CU EXCHANGE PROGRAMS; (II) INCREASE MODERATELY CULTURAL PRESENTATION AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES JASHOW AND CIRCULATE FILMS; PLACE WIRELESS FILE AND TAPES IN MEDIA; DISTRIBUTE WF AND OTHER MATERIALS MORE WIDELY IN BOTH FRENCH AND ARABIC, (III) CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO DEMAND FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION; (IV) BEGIN PLANNING NOW TO PUT MISSION INTO POSITION TO EXPLOIT NEW GIRM TELEVISION SERVICE TO BE INAUGURATED FALL 1979.

(3) ISSUES: THERE ARE NO ISSUES OF POLICY, NOR ANY PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGENCIES--IN NOUAKCHOTT OR IN US--OR BETWEEN MISSION AND WASHINGTON. TO CONTRARY, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT US SHOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00810 03 OF 03 131136Z

MAINTAIN ITS FRIENDLY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH MAURITANIA, SHOULD INCREASE MODESTLY ITS POLITICAL SUPPORT OF GIRM BUT ONLY ON A QUID PRO QUO AND PERFORMANCE BASIS, AND SHOULD IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS OWN NATIONAL AND BUDGETARY OBJECTIVES HELP MAURITANIANS HELP THEMSELVES VIA A MEDIUM-SIZE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PROVIDED GIRM DEMONSTRATES ITS COMMITMENT TO SOUND DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PRACTICES VIA GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS AND, TO BEST OF ITS ABILITY, EFFECTIVE PERFORMANCE. INSTEAD, THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF POLICY EXECUTION--PRACTICAL, PRAGMATIC PROBLEMS OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WHICH ARE OF SUCH NATURE AND MAGNITUDE THAT THEY WILL SEVERELY HAMPER CARRYING OUT OF AGREED UPON PROGRAM DECISIONS UNTIL SOLUTIONS ARE FOUND. NEARLY ALL ARE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS--PRIMARILY OF PERSONNEL AND OF PHYSICAL FACILITIES. (EXCEPTION IS HALF PROGRAM/HALF MANAGEMENT: LENGTH OF TIME BETWEEN CONCEPTION AND EXECUTION WHICH AID'S COMPLEX PROGRAMMING PROCESS IMPOSES ON DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS.) STATE, AID AND PEACE CORPS PERSONNEL SYSTEMS HAVE PROVED INADEQUATE TO ADMITTEDLY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK OF FILLING AND KEEPING FILLED THE RELATIVELY SMALL (AND FOR THAT VERY REASON, CRITICAL) NUMBER OF OFFICER AND STAFF POSITIONS IN US MISSION IN MAURITANIA WITH FIRST-CLASS, PROFESSIONALLY AND LANGUAGE-QUALIFIED PEOPLE. PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR POSITION WAS VACANT FOR NEARLY SEVEN MONTHS; FOR PAST FOUR MONTHS AID TEAM HAS BEEN AT HALF AUTHORIZED STRENGTH AND MAY NOT BE FULLY STAFFED UNTIL SEPTEMBER; NO REPLACEMENTS HAVE YET BEEN NAMED FOR THREE STATE POSITIONS SLATED TO BECOME VACANT IN NEXT 60 TO 90 DAYS. RE PHYSICAL FACILITIES, MISSION'S JULY 1975 RPT 1975 REQUEST FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING, OFFICE SPACE AND SUPPORT FACILITIES ON USG-OWNED COMPOUND CONTINUES STALLED AT DEAD CENTER. MISSION IS THUS FACED WITH NEED TO LEASE (AT RENTS WHICH WILL EQUAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN THREE TO FOUR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 00810 03 OF 03 131136Z

YEARS) SUBSTANDARD HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE AND TO UPGRADE IT TO MINIMUM US STANDARDS OF OCCUPANCY. AND OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT (EXAMPLE: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING EXPERTISE WHICH IS UNOBTAINABLE IN NOUAKCHOTT) GO UNANSWERED. FROM VANTAGE POINT OF L "SANDSVILLE", TIME IS UPON US WHEN WE MUST EITHER IMPROVE SIGNIFICANTLY OUR MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE AND OUR SUPPORT CAPABILITIES OR CURTAIL PLANNED EXPANSIONS IN US PRESENCE AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. IN MY VIEW, WE HAVE ABOUT 10 TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE OUR APPARENT INABILITY TO PRODUCE ON OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS (WHICH IS A FUNCTION OF OUR MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PERFORMANCE) WILL BECOME A STICKY POLITICAL PROBLEM.

HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARM REPORTS, ANNUAL REPORTS, CERP 0001
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC00810
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0137
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770466/aaaacfdc.tel
Line Count: 490
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5b42bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 38356, 77 STATE 47671
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2832764
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARM: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCES ASSESSMENT - PART I
TAGS: PFOR, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5b42bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009